

*Received Dec 4th 1880
at Winnipeg*

1880

REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNOR AND COMMITTEE

OF THE

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY,

TO BE

LAI D BEFORE THE SHAREHOLDERS,

ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 1880.

LONDON:

PRINTERS: SIR JOSEPH CAUSTON AND SONS,
47, EASTCHEAP, E.C., & SOUTHWARK ST., S.E.

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DIRECTORS.

Governor.

EDEN COLVILLE, ESQUIRE.

Deputy-Governor.

SIR JOHN ROSE, BART., G.C.M.G.

Committee.

GEORGE LYALL, Esquire.

EDWARD WILLIAM TERRICK HAMILTON, Esquire.

THOMAS HOLDSWORTH NEWMAN, Esquire.

FRANCIS PEEK, Esquire.

MONTAGU C. WILKINSON, Esquire.

JOHN P. GASSIOT, Esquire.

THOMAS R. EDRIDGE, Esquire.

A GENERAL COURT of the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay will be held, in pursuance of the provisions of the Charter, at the City Terminus Hotel, Cannon Street, on Tuesday, the 23rd Instant, at Two o'clock, for the purpose of Electing a Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Committee for the year ensuing. The Ballot will commence at that hour, and close at Four o'clock.

By the 7th George the III., cap. 48, no person can be admitted to vote who has not been in possession of Stock for Six Calendar Months, unless such Stock shall have been acquired by bequest, or by marriage, or by succession to an Intestate's Estate, or by the Custom of the City of London, or by any deed of settlement after the death of any person who shall have been entitled for life to the dividends of such Stock.

The Transfer Books of the Company will be closed on Saturday, the 13th, and re-opened on Wednesday, the 24th instant.

By order of the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Committee of the said Company,

W. ARMIT,

Secretary.

HUDSON'S BAY HOUSE,

London, November 9th, 1880.

REPORT.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Company's Charter, the Governor and Committee have issued the usual notice, a copy of which is annexed, calling a Meeting of the Proprietors for the purpose of electing a Governor, Deputy-Governor and Committee for the ensuing year.

The present Governors and Members of the Committee, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

As regards the Fur trade, the Committee have to report that in July the finer kinds of Furs from the Western Department, which were brought home by way of Panama, were sold at an advance of fully 10 per cent. upon the prices obtained at the spring sales. The remainder of the Returns from that Department and those from Canada usually sold in September, will be disposed of in January and March, together with the bulk of the Company's Collections which are now being received from the other Departments.

Advices have been received of the arrival of the barque "Prince of Wales" at Moose Factory on the 24th of August, and the sailing of the vessel for London on the 10th of September. That vessel, and the barque "Ocean Nymph" from York Factory, which usually arrive home in October, have not yet returned. Their progress has, no doubt, been retarded by adverse winds.

As yet the Committee are unable to make a comparison of the Returns of Outfit 1879 with those of the previous year, but they regret to find by the Reports received from the Officers, that the Indians of the Northern Districts experienced great privations during a portion of the winter of 1879-80, the severity of which prevented many of them from hunting fur-bearing animals and obtaining food.

The Returns of the Districts referred to, will in all probability be smaller than those of Outfit 1878, but until the Accounts are received from the various Departments, and the returns are realized, the Committee cannot give an estimate of the probable result of the year's trade, and they are unable therefore to recommend the payment of an interim dividend.

The steamers on Lake Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan have been fully employed during the past season in conveying the goods and returns of the Company to and from Fort Garry, and in carrying other supplies and passengers at satisfactory rates. In view of the increasing traffic on the Saskatchewan, the Committee have determined to build another steamer to assist the "Northcote," and also to provide further communication on Lake Winnipeg by a supplemental vessel to the steamer "Colville," and they hope that these additional boats will be found equal to the task of meeting the demands expected to be made upon them next season.

Satisfactory progress is being made with the arrangements for the erection of new buildings and grist mills alluded to in the Report of June last. The Committee have every reason to believe that several of the mills will have been finished in time for the past year's harvest, and a considerable saving in the cost and freight of flour will thus be effected.

The new store at Winnipeg will be finished as soon as possible next season, when the facilities and advantages for conducting the general trade in a successful manner will be greater than in the present premises at Fort Garry.

In the adjoining districts where settlement has made rapid progress, other changes have been found necessary, in order that the general business may be improved and the position and influence of the Company in the territory maintained.

The Governor and Committee have much pleasure in

stating that the steamer "Otter," which was reported as having been wrecked in the Gulf of Georgia, has been got off, and arrived safely in Victoria. She was insured for £5,000, one-fourth of which amount was taken by the Company. The documents relating to this unfortunate accident have not yet been received, so that the Committee are not in a position to state the amount of the claim to be made on the Marine Insurance Fund.

When the accounts of the Company were presented in June last, the sales of town lots and farming lands were reported to the end of March, together with the amounts received and the outstanding instalments. Since that date the Committee have received advices of the sales which have been effected up to the end of September, as follows :

210 town lots at Fort Garry (about 40 acres) for	\$115.325
23 town lots at West Lynne and other Stations	
(about 5 acres) for	2.005
13,635 acres of farming lands in Manitoba ,,	69.971
	<hr/>
	\$187.301

It is satisfactory to notice that these figures show a considerable improvement upon those of the previous year. The payments for the town lots and farming lands are extended over five and eight years respectively, with interest at the rate of 7 per cent. on the amount unpaid.

The total proceeds of land sales effected to the end of September amount to £88,250, of which the sum of £34,016 had been received, and the balance £54,234 was outstanding at that date.

No efforts will be spared to increase the sales of farming lands next season. The policy of the Company, in the opinion of the Committee, should be to meet the demand of incoming settlers : on the one hand, not checking sales by holding out for extreme prices, and on the other, not sacrificing the Company's property.

Under an Act passed by the Dominion Parliament last session, a Toll Bridge will be erected across the Assiniboine

River, which will have the effect of drawing greater attention to the Company's town lots at Winnipeg, and encouraging the growth of the city in that direction. With the prospect of its being in itself a profitable undertaking the Company have agreed to take an interest in the Bridge Company to the extent of £5,000, the remainder of the Capital required being subscribed by parties residing at Manitoba.

Although the Governor and Committee have as yet no official information as to the arrangement made by the Dominion Government with a Syndicate for the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, they believe that the preliminary Agreement for the completion of this important work has been signed, and that before long the terms will be submitted to the Dominion Parliament for ratification.

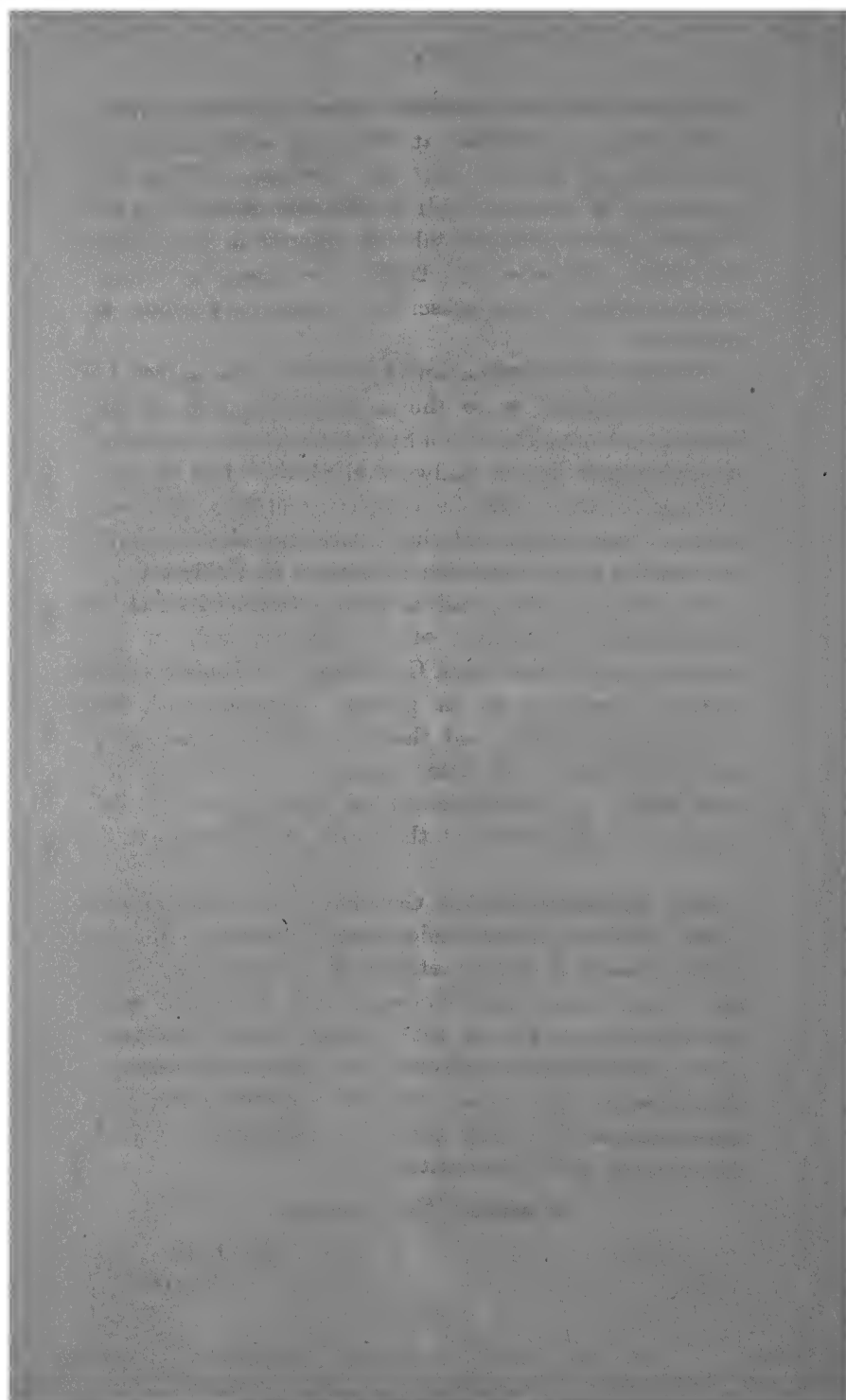
This Railway cannot fail to have a beneficial effect in developing the settlement of the country, and, in the opinion of the Governor and Committee, the Hudson's Bay Company should as far as possible co-operate with the Dominion Government and the Syndicate in encouraging emigration, and in any other measures that may have for their object the development and advancement of the prosperity of Manitoba and the North West Territory.

Since the last Meeting the Governor of the Company has visited Manitoba and the neighbouring districts. He also availed himself of the opportunity of conferring with the two Commissioners and discussing with them and such of the Officers as he was able to meet, various questions relating to the landed property and the general trade of the Company. The various suggestions resulting from his communication with these gentlemen have since occupied the attention of the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee,

E. COLVILLE,

Governor.





1880 NOVEMBER PROCEEDINGS MISSING.

